President : Ah! Malayalam ; you are ignoring the questioner.

(The answer was read in Malayalam).

Mr. J. John Kattakayam : ഇന്ന് ഈ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിൽ നടംകിവരുന്ന കർശനമായ ശിക്ഷകരം കാര്യക്ഷമമായ ഭരണത്തിന് ആവശ്യമാണെന്നാണൊ മെമ്പക്കുള്ള അഭിപ്രായം?

Rao Sahib Dr. N. Kunjan Pillai : അഭിപ്രായം അറിയുന്നതിനുവേണ്ടി ചോദ്യംചോദിക്കാൻ പാടില്ലെന്നു ഇവിടെ റൂളിംഗ് ഉണ്ടായിട്ടുണ്ട്.

Mr. J. John Kattakayam : അപേക്ഷപ്രകാരം എത്രപേർക്കു സ്ഥലംമാറ്റം കൊടുത്തിട്ടുണ്ട്?

Rao Sahib Dr. N. Kunjan Pillai : അതിനെപ്പറ്റി ഇപ്പോൾ അറിയാൻപാടില്ല.

Mr. M. N Paramesvaran Pillai : May I know whether all the Nair graduates in the Anchal Superintendent's Office have been transferred ?

Rao Sahib Dr. N. Kunjan Pillai: I have no information ; I claim notice.

Mr. Komilezhathu Sankaran : May I ask whether transfers from the Anchal Superintendent's Office are made according to caste ?

Rao Sahib Dr. N. Kunjan Pillai : No.

Mr. N. K. Padmanabha Pillai : May I know the number of hands degraded ?

President : That is outside the purview of the question ; you better put a fresh question on that if you like.

Fixing the sale price of salt.

92. *** Mr. G. Narayana Aiyar :** Will the Government be pleased to state whether they have issued any directions or orders to the merchants who purchase salt from the depots that they should sell the two varieties of salt at particular prices, and, if so, what is the price fixed ?

Mr. C. O. Madhavan (*Excise Commissioner*) : No.

Mr. G. Narayana Aiyar : May I ask whether the member knows that the merchants in the taluks of Parur, Kunnatnad, Muvattupuzha and Todupuzha are selling Bombay salt at a much higher price than the price fixed for home salt ?

Mr. C. O. Madhavan : Yes.

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Mr. G. Narayana Aiyar: May I know whether it is not recognised that Bombay salt is far superior to home salt?

President: That is a matter of opinion.

Mr. G. Narayana Aiyar: May I ask whether it is admitted by Government that Bombay salt is superior to home salt?

Mr. C. O. Madhavan: Government know that the people of North Travancore prefer Bombay salt to home salt.

Mr. G. Narayana Aiyar: May I ask whether the statement contained in the report of the department, that Tinnevelly, Bombay and Karachi salt is of better quality than the salt produced by our own factory, is not correct?

Mr. C O. Madhavan: If it is so stated, it is correct.

Mr G. Narayana Aiyar: When it is admitted that home salt is inferior, can the Government insist on the consumers—merchants who buy from the Government depot—purchasing equal quantities of Bombay salt and home salt?

Mr. C. O. Madhavan: I have to make an explanatory statement to make the position clear.

President: You may answer it by a statement.

Mr. C O. Madhavan: The supply of Bombay salt is restricted merely to find a market for local salt. Bombay salt is supplied at the Munambam and Alleppey salt depots to supplement local salt which is not sufficient to meet the entire local demand. People of North Travancore prefer Bombay salt to local salt. Therefore, whatever Bombay salt we import we stock in the Munambam and Alleppey depots. But, as I said, the supply of Bombay salt is restricted in order that local salt may find a sale.

President: That is to say, Government want to encourage the sale of local salt.

Mr. C. O. Madhavan: Yes, Sir.

Mr. G. Narayana Aiyar: Do the Government insist on the merchants purchasing equal quantities of Bombay salt and home salt?

Mr. C. O. Madhavan: Yes, from Munambam, and I have already explained the reason for that.

Mr. G. Narayana Aiyar: Does not that practice work a great deal of hardship on the consumer?

Mr. C. O. Madhavan: To a large extent, it is a question of taste.

President: His question is whether you are aware that it works hardship.

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Mr. C. O. Madhavan: There is no great hardship, Sir. If we supply them with all the Bombay salt that they want we would have to find fresh market for home salt.

Mr. G. Narayana Aiyar: A reference, to page 117 of the Administration Report of the Excise Department shows that Bombay salt is sold at 3 chs. 12 cash per *edangali*, whereas local salt is sold at 2 chs. 12 cash per *edangali*.

President: That has been admitted by the Government member; and he has told us distinctly that the reason is to encourage local salt. It is a method of inducing people to purchase local salt. They have deliberately fixed a higher price for foreign salt. That is his answer. Patriotism, I suppose.

Mr. K. P. Nilakanta Pillai: May I ask why, if the object of Government is to encourage the consumption of local salt, equal quantities of Bombay salt and home salt are supplied from the Munambam and Alleppey depots?

Mr. C. O. Madhavan: The proportion is equal at Munambam alone, and not so at Alleppey, where it is one of Bombay salt and five of local salt. As already explained, Bombay salt is brought to supplement the local salt, to the extent to which it is not sufficient to meet the demand.

Mr. V. S. Arumukam Pillai: May I ask whether there is complaint that the salt issued from Puthalam contains more of magnesium chloride?

Mr. C. O. Madhavan: On analysis, the salt produced in all these factories in South Travancore has been found to contain small varying quantities of magnesium chloride. I cannot say whether Puthalam salt alone contains more of it.

Abolition of the temporary Sub-Registrar's office at Warkalai.

93. ***Mr. K. P. Nilakanta Pillai:** With reference to the abolition of the temporary Sub Registrar's office at Warkalai, will the Government be pleased to furnish the following information:

(*a*) the various reasons which weighed with them for ordering the abolition of the Sub-Registrar's office at Warkalai from the beginning of the next year;

(*b*) the total number of documents registered in the above office every year from 1103 up to date (26-11-1109);

(*c*) the annual net income of the above office from 1103 up to date; and

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